

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 167881
ORIGIN AF-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167881

FOLLOWING REPEAT LOME 2070 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ADDIS ABABA AND USUN NEW YORK JUN 27.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 2070

DEPT PASS TO OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PORG, TO, OAU

SUBJECT: OAU SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP DEVELOPMENTS: TOGO

1. FOREIGN MINISTER EDEM KODJO INFORMED ME AT DINNER
JUNE 26 THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA HAS DECIDED TO PERMIT HIM
TO BE A CANDIDATE TO REPLACE ETEKI AS OAU SECRETARY GENERAL.
KODJO WAS ELATED AND SAID HIS PROSPECTS FOR WINNING THE
POST APPEARED GOOD. HE BELIEVES HE HAS CONSIDERABLE MODERATE
AND CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT. HE CLAIMS NIGERIA WILL SUPPORT
HIM.

2. KODJO SAYS PRESIDENT EYADEMA HAS DECIDED TO ADOPT THE
TACTIC OF SEEKING THE SECRETARY GENERAL POST FOR TOGO AS A
PART OF HIS LONGER-TERM STRATEGY OF SEEKING TO HAVE THE OAU
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HEADQUARTERS MOVED TO LOME. THE LATTER CAMPAIGN WILL BE
DOWNPLAYED FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. KODJO BELIEVES HIS PRINCIPAL ANGLOPHONE RIVAL IS
TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN SALIM.

4. COMMENT: KODJO IS A SUAVE AND BRILLIANT PRODUCT OF

FRANCE'S PRESTIGIOUS ECOLE NORMAL D'ADMINISTRATION. HE HAS BEEN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF EYADEMA'S FOREIGN POLICY. JODJO IS COOL-HEADED, PRAGMATIC, AMBITIOUS AND TOUGH. HE HAS A RUTHLESS STREAK. HE SEES GREAT PERSONAL POTENTIAL IN GUIDING THE OAU TOWARD MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION IN SUCH QUESTIONS AS SOUTHERN AFRICA AND GREAT POWER INTERVENTION IN AFRICA. IN THE LONGER TERM, HIS AMBITION IS TO BECOME UN SECRETARY GENERAL. PALMER
UNQUOTE VANCE

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